The New-York Times.

VOL. VIII.—NO. 2271. NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1858. PRICE TWO CENTS.

IMPORTANT MUNICIPAL PROCEEDINGS.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

REGULATION OF THE STREET DEPARTMENT.

The Board met last evening, Alderman McSpedon in the Chair.

Alderman Boole offered a resolution allowing the Chairman of the Board at the disposal of the Hon. J. L. Graham, between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock, for the reception of his friends and others of the citizens.

The ordinance regulating the City Inspector's Department was taken up. Part of it was read when it was put on its passage and carried by a vote of 13 to 2—Aldermen Tieman providing against such extremely hasty action.

The City Inspector objects to that the Street Department will have regulations of opening, altering regulating, grading, flagging, curbing, flattening and lighting streets, roads, places and avenues, of building, repairing and lighting wharves and piers, and filling up ponds, docking, and other work; the construction and repairing of public roads; for sale and improvement of public roads and places; the filling up of ponds on same; the construction, repairing, lighting and cleaning of the City Hall, and all other matters relating to the duties of the Street Department; the re-payment for the cost of the Fire Department; the re-payment for the cost of the Police Department; the opening of streets, roads, &c., and all other matters not provided for in other departments; and for collecting of all assessments.

Right Granted Taking to the Street Department, &c.

2. It shall be the duty of the Street Department, whenever required so to do by the Common Council, to report upon the expediency of granting certain rights, privileges and franchises to corporations, and others, to lay railroad tracks, to lay down gas pipes, to erect telegraph poles, and to do other matters of a like character, and to report upon the terms and conditions upon which such rights, privileges and franchises should be granted.

3. It shall be the duty of the Street Department, whenever required so to do by the Common Council, to report upon the expediency of making any improvement in the streets, roads, avenues, wharves, piers and slips, and to report upon the terms and conditions upon which such improvements should be made.

4. It shall be the duty of the Street Department, whenever required so to do by the Common Council, to report upon the expediency of making any improvement in the streets, roads, avenues, wharves, piers and slips, and to report upon the terms and conditions upon which such improvements should be made.

5. A bureau for making and repairing the public roads, to be called the "Bureau of Roads."

6. A bureau for the care and regulation of the public grounds and parks, to be called the "Bureau of Grounds and Places."

7. A bureau for lighting the public streets, roads, places, avenues, wharves, piers and markets, and for doing all work and performing all supplies and services necessary for the purposes to be called the "Bureau of Lamps and Gas."

8. A bureau for constructing and repairing public buildings and for procuring all necessary supplies for the Corporation, to be called the "Bureau of Repairs and Supplies."

9. A bureau for supplying fire-engines and fire apparatus, under the charge of the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, and for the construction of all new fire-engines and fire apparatus, to be called the "Bureau of the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department."

10. A bureau for the collection of assessments, to be called the "Bureau of the Collection of Assessments."

The next chapter of the ordinance is divided into three sections, the first of which defines the duties of Street Commissioner, the second those of Deputy Street Commissioner, and the third those of the clerks in the Street Commissioner's office.

The chief officer of the Street Department is to be called "Street Commissioner," and by virtue of his office he is one of the Surveyors of the City of New-York. Before taking office he shall give bonds in the penal sum of $10,000 for the faithful performance of his duties. All contracts for work shall be made by the Street Commissioner, and all such contracts shall be executed in triplicate—one to be filed in the office of the Street Commissioner, one in the office of the Comptroller, and one to be given to the contractor. There shall be no power to grant extra work unless the work has been authorized by the Common Council, except in cases where the sum does not exceed $250. No allowance shall be made for extra work done under a former contract unless the same has been authorized by the Common Council or by the written order of the Committee where the sum does not exceed $250. All moneys payable by the Corporation under the Street Department are to be paid by the Comptroller by warrant, except for such minor incidental expenses of the Department as expect to conveniently accounted for in separate vouchers; and no payments are to be made for any work or supplies within the cognizance of the Street Department, except upon the requisition of the Street Commissioner upon triplicate vouchers, duly certified. Whenever requested so to do by the Common Council, the Street Commissioner is directed to report upon contracts within the cognizance of his department. Whenever required so to do by the Common Council, he shall issue proposals and advertise for bids for all contracts connected with his department, and shall contract and direct all expenditures to be made by the Street Department. On the first Tuesday of each month he shall render to the Comptroller, under oath, a full statement of all moneys paid by him. He shall report to the Corporation Counsel all encroachments on the avenues or streets of the City. Whenever the circumstances of the case require it he shall appoint a competent inspector of contract work. He is to report to the Common Council all assessments made against the Corporation. The Commissioner is further bound to have books in his office open to public inspection, which shall be entered the amount of all contracts, so that any person may see the Comptroller's certificate thereof. Before each day's session the Comptroller on Tuesday, &c., of each week, he shall present to the Chamberlain vouchers for the payment thereof. All the expenditures of the Department are to be reported to the Common Council at their first meetings in the months of January, April, July and October. The Street Commissioner may direct the removal of any article or thing whatsoever, whether any encroachment or obstruction in street or avenue, which may be in the City of New-York, and to secure this end he may employ four competent persons, whose duty it shall be to report obstructions to the street. The articles thus removed shall be entered in a book, so that within a prescribed time they may be redeemed by the owners, and if not redeemed they shall be sold at public auction, after due notice shall have been given.

The Deputy Street Commissioner is appointed to exercise the office in the absence of the Commissioner, and in case of the latter's decease or temporary absence, to act in his stead.

There are to be ten clerks in the Department, viz: one chief clerk, one contract clerk, two book-keepers, one stock clerk, and five general clerks.

The Third Chapter of the ordinance relates to the Bureaus of the Department, and the Fourth to City Surveying.

A resolution was offered authorizing the publication of the proceedings of the Atlantic Telegraph Committee, by its Clerk, Mr. McCLENAHAN. It was lost for the want of a constitutional vote.

A resolution was offered appropriating $250 each to the Superintendents of Lamps, of Roads, of Wharves, Piers and Slips, and of Lands and Places, for carriage hire during 1859.

Alderman CRANE moved to add the Superintendent of Fire Engines and Fire Apparatus; but amendment and resolution were both lost for want of a constitutional vote, then reconsidered, and laid on the table.

Various reports from the Committee on Streets were received and referred back.

The TAX LEVY for 1859 came in from the Board of Councilmen. It was laid over, under the rule.

The Board adjourned to meet to-morrow afternoon, at 4 o'clock.

BOARD OF COUNCILMEN.

THE CITY EXPENSES—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

The Board met at 4 o'clock, and after a little routine business proceeded to the special order—the tax levy for 1859. The report of the Committee on Finance was read, and it o hours were then occupied in making amendments, which were severally approved, and the report was then adopted.

The Committee, in their report, say:

"It will be perceived that the appropriations are modified in a manner essentially different from what they have been in former years. They are more specific and detailed, more in detail, and purposely framed in such a way as to make the expenditures for each Department separate and distinct. The reasons for this are that each officer can be held responsible for the expenditures of his Department, and can be compared with accurately show how much is expended under the various heads, and by whom. The United States appropriations, amounting to some seventy millions of dollars, are given over the people within those of this City, and, according to certain estimates or new guaranteed, the three years and a half. Let any one read the act making appropriations for this City for the present year, and see if he can say definitely what the money is appropriated for, or what department of the City Government is charged with the various expenditures. One particular point to which the Controller gives special attention requires notice in this connection. On looking at the estimates made by the Street Commissioner, the Comptroller objects strongly to the items for 'Contingent Expenses,' as being the established custom, and the Comptroller follows it in his present estimate, to word the appropriations as follows, for example: 'Fire Department, $50,000.' 'Lamps and Gas, $50,000,' &c. Referring to the estimates of the Street Commissioner, we find them under various heads, such as, item by item, as far as could be done upon the best information he could obtain. To allow a reasonable margin for contingencies is not customary, however, and to put into the power of the City Government the means and permitting, without resolution of law, from the necessary departments which are large experience in arrangements under by-laws, to expend every year, as in all the branches of his department, the sum of $50,000 under the head of 'Contingent Expenses,' in reality no more contingent than the whole of such appropriations are under the system of the Comptroller.

"In classifying the appropriations, and placing them under the respective executive departments, your Committee did not contend that the discretion upon whose shoulders it would then devolve, by appropriations to be entitled to it in favor; besides having ample precedent in the established custom of the General Government of the country. The affairs of this City Government have certainly not been so well conducted as to preclude hope for the better in a change of system.

"Before submitting the items of the Tax Levy for the year 1859, your Committee beg to be allowed to recommend that the Common Council urge upon the Legislature the propriety of changing the commencement of the fiscal year of this city, from the first of January to the first of July, inasmuch as it would avoid the uncertainty and doubt now attending the legality of all the expenditures of the city government previous to the passage of the Tax Levy by the Legislature. For instance, one of the items of Departments estimates for ensuing expenditures; it is put in the Tax Levy by the Common Council; the expenditure is incurred, and the item is struck out of the Tax Levy by the Legislature.

"All experience shows that it is next to impossible to make accurate estimate of what will be wanted by this City a year in advance.

"The remedy is in a change of the fiscal year. Let the next Legislature be called upon to pass an act, covering the appropriations necessary for the first half of the year 1860, and the Legislature will not meet for the year, and the Legislature will not be in session while the expenditures for the year commencing July 1, 1860.

"In connection, your Committee would call your attention to the necessity for making the appropriations for the year 1859 before the end of this year; otherwise all expenditures for the City Government must cease on the first day of January next.

HENRY ARCULARIUS,
PETER CRAWFORD,
Committee on Finance.

The Comptroller's estimates were.....$7,940,176 28

The Committee's estimates, not including the arrearages of 1858, were.....$,961,671 79

Excess over Comptroller's estimates.....$261,497 47

Excess of the Board's estimates over that of the Committee.....212,681 07

Total decrease over Comptroller's estimates.$485,179 54

The principal items of increase in the estimates were as follows: For Joint Committee on Accounts, $10,000; Board of Health, $25,000, (making $30,000;) Tenth Ward Station-house, $12,500; Superintendent of Clerks and Markets, $10,000; salaries of members of Board of Aldermen, 1859, $17,000; salaries of the members of the Board of Councilmen, $24,000; removing night soil, $20,000; Board of Health Arrearages, 1858, $30,000. The Board concurred with the *Aldermen in a report proposing the further issue of* stock for acquiring lands for the Central Park.

They adjourned to Thursday, at 5 o'clock P. M.

COMMISSIONERS OF DEEDS.

The following is a list of the Commissioners of Deeds appointed by the Common Council on Tuesday night for the City and County of New-York:

George Kellock, Jr.,	Thos. G. Van Cott,
Erastus W. Brooks,	James I. Stewart,
Edward J. Shandley,	John B. Fogerty,
Edward P. Orrell,	Bernard Kielly,
John H. Bird,	Edward W. Collins,
Augustus Purdy,	Abraham H. Kennedy,
Edward A. Fraser,	Wm. B. Harrison,
Edmund B. Fellows,	Charles E. Patterson,
Gustavus A. Valentine,	Hermon L. Emmons, Jr.,
William H. Barker,	Thurber Bailey,
John Lyons,	Henry J. Irving,
George G. Taylor,	Julius M. Ackley,
Thomas Wallace,	John R. Finty,
William E. Carpenter,	Edward Murray,
James Green,	Francis T. Johnson,
Ebenezer E. Snafer,	John McKeon,
James D. Hall,	Geo. H. E. Lynch,
Alex. H. McGarren,	John U. Genet,
John Ahern,	William Martin, Jr.,
William Dixey,	Wm. Henry Martin,
John J. Ware,	Walter L. Cutting,
Peter Crawford,	Geo. R. Schiefelin,
William Dodge,	John H. Morris,
Edward J. Knight,	John Byrne,
James McKinley,	George B. Pratt,
Geo. W. Jenet,	Theodore Marine,
John Anderson, Jr.,	Clarance C. Mitchell,
Joseph McGuire,	Edward S. McPherson,
Benj. L. Stillage,	James Brits,
L. J. Goodale,	Augustus L. Wood,
Benjamin Hageman,	David S. Dunscomb,
John Raymond,	Calvin S. Northrup,
A. S. Van Duzer,	Amasa C. Moore,
Romond H. Haswell,	John Adriance,
J. Augustus Page,	Addison Brown,
Charles T. Monson,	Smith E. Lane,
Thomas Egan,	John H. Hall,
Thomas S. Mitchell,	A. F. Roberts,
Edward Chase,	Jno. O. Jenkins,
Alexander Mahaffey,	Charles G. Haskins,
John A. Morehouse,	Elsworth D. Mills,
John B. Hilton,	Spencer Kirby,
Wm. T. Latimer,	Calvin W. Smith,
Edmund Fiendorff,	T. B. Yates Bommary,
John Van Nostes,	Washington B. Nichols,
Eugene A. Kenley,	Nell Newson,
Samuel E. Bell,	Wm. O. Mumford,
Allen Rumerford,	Francis T. Johnson,
James Ferguson,	George W. Backer,
James G. Tait,	Felix Hart,
John Henry Hall,	Thomas Bates,
James M. Sweeney,	Wm. F. T. Chapman,
Wm. Sinclair,	Wm. L. Morris,
Peter L. Felty,	Richard C. Fellows,
Francis Cahill,	Jos. E. Nones,
John Hayes,	Thomas Semple,
Wm. G. McLaughlin,	Moses Vail,
Mathias Boats,	John F. Williams,
Geo. Stringham,	E. D. Gavitt,
Frederick W. Loew,	Murwin H. Jones,
George E. Baldwin,	Wm. W. Stephenson,
Henry Dunlap,	Henry E. Davies, Jr.,
Charles Lewis,	James Donohue,
Asa Butman,	Chas. C. Fowler,
Charles Gildersleeve,	Wm. E. Brinckerhoff,
Jireh Bull,	Wm. V. Leggett,
Samuel Seabury,	Jacob E. Howard,
Wm. H. Ribles,	David Seaman,
Wm. Cosgrove,	Alfred E. Baker,
Charles F. Knapp,	Chas. F. Watts,
Wm. H. McGloin,	Wilson Small,
John J. Donnelly,	Daniel Pomeroy,
Elias H. Van Brunt,	J. N. Lackey,
Thomas A. Banaker,	John S. Riley,
Wm. A. McSpedon,	J. Harrison Read,
Nelson Taylor,	William Tucker,
Thos. Van Buren,	Charles D. Marsh,
Francis J. Twomey,	David A. Fowler,
James M. Sheehan,	William L. Ely,
Isaac R. Batchelor,	Aaron B. Rollins,
Ebenezer H. Brown,	Charles J. Breck,
Wm. H. Barker,	Artemus S. Cady,
James R. Cumming,	William King,
John Brown,	N. B. Mumford,
Chas. W. Baker,	E. G. Thompson,
Richard S. Green,	Peter Mitchell,
Wm. H. Haviland,	

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS—THE BIBLE QUESTION.

It being the last session of the present Board the meeting yesterday afternoon was fully attended and quite protracted. An appropriation of $6,249 was made for refurnishing the school-room in Ludlow-street, and one of $276 to repair the school building in the Thirteenth Ward. Bills for work, &c., furnished the different educational institutions, were presented. Most of them were ordered to be paid. That of Harper & Brothers was laid on the table. A report of the Committee on By-Laws was presented. It suggested a few alterations which were agreed to. It was decided that hereafter two meetings should be held in January, one on the second and the other on the third Wednesday. An irregular debate arose on the question of making alterations on the grade of teachers, and of exempting all above the grades A and B in the Grammar Schools from being appointed to attend the Normal Schools. The latter point was finally agreed to.

The School Officers of the Ninth Ward reported that they had received estimates for the building of a new school-house in that Ward. $12,536 is the total of the lowest bids for the different classes of work for which proposals were issued. This amount was appropriated. By a vote of 26 to 3, $44,076 were appropriated for building a school-house in Twenty-seventh-street, on the site of Ward School No. 14. Authority was given the School Officers of the Nineteenth Ward to purchase, at a cost of $4,400, four lots on Seventy-eighth-street, between Third and Fourth avenues, as a site for the erection of a school-house.

The Committee on Finance presented its annual report. The sum total at the disposal of the Board is estimated as follows:

Amount received from the State	$212,680 32
Amount received from the County, equal to	212,680 32
One-twentieth of one per cent. on valuation of real and personal property of the City	320,272 24
Tax not exceeding $4 for each scholar	332,945 20
Total	$1,258,000 01
From this is to be deducted the amount overdrawn from bank on the 1st day of January, 1858	50,437 50
Total	$1,195,562 51
There should likewise be taken the amount which the law requires this Board to pay to the Corporation Schools, viz:	56,282 50
Leaving for Public Education under the direction of this Board	$1,139,280 01

Which has been applied as follows:

For Salaries of Teachers and Janitors in Ward Schools	$695,425 83
For Salaries of Teachers and Janitors in the Twelfth and Eighteenth Wards (rolls not in)	4,500 00
For Incidental Expenses in Ward Schools which are all amounts ordered by the Local Boards of School Officers, and including supplies from Depository, and including fuel	66,726 12
Amount not distributed to the Wards	1,333 33—$66,044 79
For support of Free Academy—	
Salaries	$40,426 21
Incidental	2,500 12— 42,926 73
For support of Normal Schools—	
Salaries	2,244 00
Incidental	1,000 12— 3,244 12

For support of Evening Schools—	
Salaries	$24,052 22
Incidental	12,545 30—$36,618 52
For work done through the shop under direction of Superintendent of Buildings	6,139 26
For supplies to the Depository, including books, stationery, and all other articles in use in the Ward Schools, the Free Academy, Normal and the Evening Schools, and Clerks and Superintendents' Offices	105,522 31
For rents for Normal, Primary Schools, and Ward School No. 21	10,600 00
For salaries of commissioners, Board, inspectors, all the superintendents of Schools, clerk and assistants of the Board, Superintendent of Public Buildings and Janitor	23,202 87
Incidental expenses of the Board, including all printing as far as paid	12,170 07
For sites of ground for new Schools	20,000 00
For repairs and new furniture in School-houses destroyed by fire	12,376 50
For repairs on School-houses, and new furniture to do. done by contract	17,232 23
For new School-houses and furniture	25,682 72
For rent for Church in Fourth-ward for School, 1857	2,000 00
For expenses of annual exhibitions	200 00
For Census	5,000 00
Balance of money in Bank	29,129 24
	$1,139,280 01
Appropriations made but not yet expended	$63,610 68
Incidental expenses, Board of Education	3,743 10
Of the amount paid for the Depository the present year	100,000 00
There were due for Supplies for 1857	22,763 15
	25,505 15
There are owing now for 1858	19,434 60
	44,939 75
So that the expenditure for 1858 has been	56,060 75
To which is to be added the difference between the amount of stock in hand, Jan. 1, 1858, and Jan. 1, 1859	3,376 74
Cost of Depository for 1858	$97,316 99
The amount expended for 1857, was	93,004 78
Less belonging to 1856	7,389 71
Total	77,844 07
Paid in 1858 for 1857	17,160 90
Cost of Depository for 1857	$95,004 97

Of the money paid for Sites, $20,000 were ordered in 1857.

Of the money paid for New Schools and Rent, $10,000 were ordered in 1857.

Of the money paid for Plates, $1,000 were ordered in 1857.

We make the following extract from the City Superintendent's annual report on the condition of the Schools. It is highly gratifying:

The system of public instruction in the City and County of New-York, as organized by the Board of Education in accordance with the provision of the existing law comprises a Free Academy for the complete collegiate education of boys; four Normal Schools for the instruction of teachers; fifty-seven Ward schools, including fifty-one Grammar Schools for boys, forty-nine Grammar Schools for girls, and fifty-five Primary Departments for both sexes; thirty-five Primary Schools, forty-two Evening Schools, twenty-three of which are for male and nineteen for female pupils, and ten corporate schools. The number of pupils under instruction in the Free Academy is 175; in the boys' Grammar Schools 26,900; girls' Grammar Schools, 23,991; Primary Departments, 50,270; Primary Schools, 21,000; Evening Schools about 20,000; Normal Schools 656 and corporate schools, 10,597. The whole number on register in the several Ward and Primary Schools and Departments is 131,673, and the average attendance 40,172.

The whole number of teachers employed in the several schools under the charge of the Board is 1,400; 250 of whom are males and 1,200 females. There are also 11 corporate institutions in different sections of the City, which participate in the distribution of the School fund, but are in no other respect under the jurisdiction of the Board.

The whole amount of money expended during the past year for the maintenance and support of these schools was $1,100,266 69, of which sum $556,445 83 was paid for the salaries of teachers and janitors of the school buildings; $268,616 13 for the erection of school houses, the purchase of sites, and repairs and alterations of existing edifices; $25,217 06 for the purchase of fuel; $105,326 21 for books, stationery and school apparatus; $23,208 51 for salaries of Superintendents, clerks and officers of the Board; $43,734 73 for the Free Academy, including repairs; $44,515 62 for Evening Schools; $11,200 25 for Normal Schools, and $45,427 05 for contingent expenses connected with the administration of the system. Of the aggregate sum thus expended $212,680.55 were apportioned by the State Superintendent from the income of the Common School Fund and the balance raised by City taxation.

The Superintendent is happy in being able to state that at no preceeding period in the history of the system have the schools of the City, collectively considered, been in a more flourishing condition.

The Superintendent makes the following remarks and suggestions upon the use of the Bible in the schools:

"In the several schools under the charge of the Board of Education, with the exception of those in the Fourth and Sixth Wards, and of a part of those in the Fourteenth Ward, the Bible is regularly read as an opening exercise, accompanied generally by the repetition of the Lord's Prayer, and by a devotional hymn.

"The practice of reading the Bible, and of repeating the Lord's Prayer, and of singing devotional hymns in the several schools under the charge of the Board of Education, in the absence of any general regulation by the Board of Education, in several previous reports from this Department, I have respectfully invited the attention of the Board to the expediency and propriety of adopting some uniform rule in this respect, instead of leaving it discretionary, as at present, with the several local Boards. A majority of the Board, however, were of opinion that while the statute in relation to Public Instruction in the City of New-York, positively interdicted the exclusion by them of the Holy Scriptures from any of the schools under their jurisdiction, it failed to confer the power of directing their introduction; and although a resolution was passed, by a unanimous vote of the Board, recommending the opening of all the schools by the reading of the Bible, it was deemed inexpedient to require the introductory exercises. Notwithstanding this unanimous expression of the feelings and wishes of the Board, the officers of the Wards from which the Bible has been excluded have not seen fit to restore it, and claim the sole power of action in this respect.

"The act of the Legislature under which this controversy has arisen, after providing that the Board of Education shall not, by any action of theirs, "Exclude the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment or any selections therefrom, from any of the Schools," goes on to enact that "It shall not be competent for the said Board of Education to decide what version, if any, of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment, shall be used in any of the Schools." The words "if any" it is maintained, precluded the Board from the exercise of any authority in the premises, and left the introduction or the exclusion of the Bible wholly in the hands of the local officers of the Ward. On the other hand, it is contended, with great force and pertinency, as it seems to me, that the Legislature clearly intended to prohibit the exclusion of the Bible from any of the Schools, and, at the same time, to prohibit the Board from deciding what particular "version of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment," should be used, if, in their judgment, any version should be used. When they found the Bible already in the Schools, they were not at liberty to direct its exclusion. Where it had not been introduced, they might, at their option, direct its introduction; but in this case, "if" they directed that some or "any" version of the Scriptures, without note or comment, should be used, they were prohibited from deciding what version, this power being wisely left to the local officers of the Wards. They might exercise the power thus conferred upon them of prescribing the same version of the Scriptures should be used in all the Schools where its introduction had not already been provided for, or they might, in their discretion, refrain from its exercise. If they chose to exercise the power, they were not to specify what particular version should be adopted.

"By the thirtieth section of the act, it is expressly made the duty of the Board of Education "by general rules and regulations," to provide that, "as near as practicable, the system of instruction pursued in the Common Schools shall be uniform throughout the City." In the view of this important question which I have taken, the precepts and doctrines of the Christian religion as contained in the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment, form a most important and essential part of the "system of instruction" pursued in our Common Schools. If this be so, then it is made the imperative duty of the Board, by general rules and regulations, to render this instruction uniform in all the Schools under its charge.

"There can, it is believed, be no doubt that a very large majority of our fellow-citizens, who contribute to the support and maintenance of our public Schools, are earnestly desirous that the Bible should be daily read in all these institutions, and that its sacred authority should be recognized and revered, and its sublime lessons inculcated as a part of the system of instruction. The Board of Education, representing the different religious denominations into which the community is divided, have, with entire unanimity, expressed their hearty concurrence in this view of the subject, and given to it the weight of their recommendation. The best interests and highest welfare of the state, peculiar imperatively require that the element of Christian religious culture should form a distinct and prominent portion of the education conferred upon them. In undertaking the task, and assuming the responsibilities, of public instruction, the community has placed itself under the most solemn and weighty obligations to make that instruction as comprehensive and as efficient as its component members would have done, had they retained the work of education in their own hands. As a Christian people, we desire that our children should be taught uniformly to reverence and regard the dictates of the religion we profess—to be governed by its counsels, and to direct the whole current of their lives by its spirit. We are unwilling to consent that their future character and habits shall be formed without any recognition of, or regard for, the great charter of our religious faith. The exclusion of the Bible by an official act of the constituted guardians of any of our Public Schools, we feel to be a virtual condemnation of that inspired volume, as an agent of public instruction—a denial of its claims upon the hearts and consciences of the young, as an educator in virtue, morality, and religion—and a precedent, which if once established, and sanctioned by the assent, or even the indifference of the community, may, in no very long period of time, undermine the strongest bulwarks of the Christian faith. We desire to constrain the conscientious or to interfere with the religious scruples of no individual of any denomination or sect; but, regarding, as we do, Christianity as an indispensable portion of the education of youth and the Bible, without note or comment, as the only authentic exponent of Christianity, we most solemnly and earnestly protest against its exclusion from any of our Public Schools."

If the Board of Education, under the existing provisions of law, have no power to prevent such exclusion, we invite its active cooperation in the endeavor to secure such power; but if, on the other hand, its jurisdiction in this respect is manifest and clear, we feel justified in invoking its protection of those rights of conscience, secured as well to us, in the exercise and enjoyment of our religious faith as Christians, as to those of our fellow-citizens who differ from us in this particular. We desire to have nothing to do with sectarianism. We have attempted no compilation from the creeds of different sects. We have endeavored to select from the Bible only such passages as are common to all the sects, in the midst of the most deplorable and demoralizing influences—and this too, in the face of a unanimous and earnest recommendation of the Board of Education that it shall be read at the opening exercises of every school. We cannot but believe that the time has come when some decided and efficient stand should be made in its favor—when, at least, the question should be definitely settled either by the Board or by the Legislature, whether the Christianity which enters into and is officially recognized by every department of our Government—National, State and municipal—shall be excluded from our Public Schools. I have been thus earnest in the expression of my views on this subject, not only because I firmly believe that the most perfect and complete education, apart from the element of Christianity as expounded by its Great Author, can afford no adequate security for the happiness and well-being of its recipient, or for the faithful discharge of the duties and responsibilities which are to devolve upon *him as a member of society, but because the official* exclusion of the Bible from a portion of our Schools, accompanied with the assertion of the right to follow it up by a similar exclusion wherever the power exists to do so, has immeasurably weakened, and must necessarily continue to weaken the public confidence in our system of public instruction. Already has it been proclaimed from the Pulpit and the Press, that our Schools are "Godless schools"—institutions in which the intellect only is cultivated—while all the solemn obligations of religion are neglected or ignored. Is it wise in us to widen the slender foundation upon which charges like these have hitherto reposed, and by allowing the Scriptures themselves to be ignominiously expelled from one after another of our Public Schools, afford the strongest confirmation to the allegations thus preferred? Shall we not much rather consult the dictates of a wise policy and expediency by boldly and manfully taking our stand upon the broad and enduring platform of Christianity, and by firmly and decidedly resolving that, come what may, the Bible, once in the Schools, shall there remain, as the only infallible guide to truth—the only unerring exponent of Christianity—the only sure palladium of individual and national happiness and prosperity.

Respectfully submitted,
S. S. RANDALL, City Superintendent.

The Board then adjourned.

IMPORTANT FROM CUBA.

The President's Message in Cuba—The People and Press of Havana Refuse to be Sold.

The Ayuntamiento, or Corporation, of Havana *have adopted the following Address to the Queen of* Spain in regard to the passage of President BUCHANAN'S Message, *referring to the purchase of Cuba.* It appears in the Havana papers by the orders of the Captain-General:

MADAM: The Ayuntamiento of Havana has not read without profound surprise the recent Message of the President of the United States, in which the infamous idea is announced that that Government has intended and intends to purchase the Island of Cuba, a proposition which must be looked upon as doubly insulting to the nobleness of the nation and to the dignity of the sons of Cuba, who, it appears, are considered no better than a drove of slaves that can be sold like a private estate.

All the Spaniards resident in the territory of the Island constitute an integral part of the Spanish nation; and, Queen, to pretend to purchase it, is to place it in a situation similar to those of Castile, to which only the laws of the Indies make her equal. The shame of being sold cannot be supported by those who always appreciate their existence as a part of a nation to which they have ever been assimilated in habit, religion and customs, and which transmitted to them the beautiful language of Cervantes. The Government of Spain has not heard, and doubtless will not listen to an ignominious proposition which wounds its sense of decency; but, nevertheless, the first municipality of the island has believed it to be its duty to raise its voice to your Majesty, on seeing written this insult to humanity and the illustrated age in which we live—an insult in which, with a cool continuely, and a total forgetfulness of all the admitted and recognized principles of international relations, the only desire is to satisfy the speculative aspirations and the interested views of a country, by bringing to shame a pusillanous Government and a people who see in the colors of their flag a long review of glories, an eternal remembrance of greatness and heroism.

Madam, in the last century the English occupied Havana, and its commander never dared to respect the decrees of your august uncle until Don CARLOS III. was induced to exchange his Lusitanian laurels for the rescue of this capital; and when the Earl of ALBEMARLE demanded that this city should do homage to the King of England, the Cabildo of the capital resisted the requirement, notwithstanding that the foreign officer who made it presided at the session. Cuba, Madame, is the same Spanish province that it has been heretofore. Now and ever it will reject foreign domination. May the Government of your Majesty so understand it, for the honor of all, and the aspirations of Havana will remain satisfied.

Such, Madam, are the sentiments of the inhabitants of the capital of Cuba, and its Ayuntamiento hastens to lay them at your Majesty's royal feet through the legal channel, anxious to offer to your Majesty a testimonial of the sentiments which have been inspired by the reading of the message of the President of the United States.

God preserve the important life of your Majesty for many years. [Capitular Chamber of Havana, Dec. 17, 1858.] MADAM—At the royal feet of your Majesty.

This document was proposed in the Ayuntamiento by Count DE O'REILLY, its requida, and was signed by Gen. ECHAVARRIA, the Governor of the city, all the officials, and the great body of the citizens. For the latter purpose it was deposited at the Cabildo, and the public were invited to affix their signatures, which was invariably done.

The Press is universal garrulous on the subject. From the leading journals we extract some expressions of the current feeling, which is by no means friendly to the American policy.

From the Diario de la Marina.

"Those familiar with the noble body of Spanish nobility will feel no surprise at the sentiment of this city, called into utterance by the preposterous project of buying the island of Cuba, nor at the fact that one of her most distinguished sons, illustrious for race as well as for position, should be the first to propose that the municipal corporation should raise to the foot of the throne the expression of that sentiment. At this step possesses a highly important significance in present circumstances, it is quite proper, and becomes a positive duty to call the attention of the world, whether our own people or foreigners, to the contrast between our national spirit with American greed; and in what manner the chivalrous temper of our people responds to the mercantile cupidity of American politics, which has prompted the words of the last Presidential message relative to this island.

It is difficult to conceive what idea Mr. BUCHANAN has of the common sense of mankind, when with so much gravity and unceremoniousness he discusses a transaction which those least versed in cotemporary history know to be impracticable, and which he seems to regard as thoroughly plain and feasible, as if the authority necessary to consummate it had already been secured. Such forgetfulness of social proprieties, and of the circumspection which nations ought to observe in their intercourse with each other, intermixed with the solemn announcement of an unreasonless doctrines in regard to the rights of nations, may not amaze the world, simply because it is accustomed to such aberrations on the part of the Washington Cabinet; but what will excite surprise, is that amidst the historical antecedents of the question are still so recent and voluminous, they are already so far forgotten in the United States as to render it necessary for the President to renew them, and Congress were able to listen, without laughing at the ridiculousness of the farce, or without indignation at what really deserved that feeling.

Purchase the Island of Cuba! The Washington Cabinet well knows it cannot be bought; that the United States have not the money that could buy it. Such is the opinion of all Spaniards, such has been especially the opinion of the natives of the soil, from the first moment the project figured in the politics of the North. This is the reason why, when a Minister of the Crown, in the hall of national representation, on an occasion similar to that produced by the present message, said that to sell the Island of Cuba would be to sell the honor of Spain, the words were rechoed from every corner of the monarchy by the unanimous voice of the Spanish race, and has been adopted from that moment by consecration as the neatest and most concise formula of reply whenever this absurd project can be revived.

Now therefore, when President BUCHANAN seeks to raise it from the deep, in which the indignation of our countrymen in both worlds had buried it, there is no need to seek any new expression of our sense. It has only to be said, that to sell the Island of Cuba would be to sell the honor of Spain," and to add that the honor of Spain is not to be sold.

The United States is a civilized nation; its public men rank as illustrious; its succession of administrations, pursuant to great discussion and greatness in all that concerns the national interest, its actual President, a man whose talents and years authorized the expectation of experience and self-control, of prudence and good judgment in the world—all in the aggregate of these things would prevent that nation's subject that made mere request in the world that a private instance of loving such question? We say no, most deliberately, for aside from the interest aspects of the business, we must now have also more of importance and levity. To insist on buying that which the owner does not offer for sale, is of course an extravagance; to insist on the point after it has been refused is an attempt we cannot describe in fitting terms, as we seek in vain for expressions adequate to the feeling of aversion with which it fills us.

Add to this numerous and the Spanish shame that was connected with a treaty of commerce, navigation, and the other series of the Colonies, and the right inspirations which existed between a people whose venerable traditions bespeak its children a nation of gentlemen, and a people whose highest type is the embodiment of avaricious thrift. They think that they can buy with their gold the honor of strangers. We think that the least atom of our honor is worth infinitely more than all the material possessions heaped in their banks by lucrative or by chance.

This the United States pay exceptional rates for all. We enter into no discussion on so low head they covet this splendid and protective mark, whose wealth in whole lands are developing under the production of their own government and laws; we do not allude to that commerce, which compares in activity and intelligence with that of the most progressive people on earth; or to the advantageous site of the island, nor to the material excellences we realized within it, nor to the monument which its envied prosperity has raised to its rulers. If we alluded only to these, when the subject is broached, those who only examine such questions through the medium of material interest, *might fairly charge us with hypertole when we* say the money does not exist that can purchase the island of Cuba.

But these considerations do not enter into the thoughts of our people, of our sovereigns, our governors, our courts, our statesmen, and even the humblest of our countrymen, when they denote the profound repulsion which they regard as an insult and of this kind, which they regard as insane. It is because they have regard to the fluctuate born in Cuba—brethren of those born in the Peninsula, children of the same fathers, sharers in the same glory trained in the same civilization, the same faith and the same customs. It is this blood which is priceless—this civilization that cannot be sold.

The sons of Cuba are the first to protest against the suggestions of this Message. Nothing could be more proper. It is they whom it is proposed to outrage, talking coolly of buying themselves as much as mere merchandise. For American politicians this promptitude should be instructive, and we advise them to ponder the commentary of the Ayuntamiento of Havana, and others of this island, on the late Message of the President, until there shall be heard, in addition, the indignant voice of the mother country raised against a project which thus attacks at once its honor and dignity.

From the Prensa de la Habana.

It is hardly necessary for us to remark that the above memorial is the genuine and unanimous expression of the feelings of all the population of the Island of Cuba. This is proved by the number of signatures which, in so few hours since the document was published, have been affixed to it, not only in the Capitular Chamber, but in that of the Aldermen. No other result could be expected in a case of so much importance; and in view of such an unmistakable demonstration, we do not believe that the slightest doubt can *be entertained in regard to the sentiments of a people* who esteem their dignity and their honor before all else that they hold most dear.

Certainly the President of the Union cannot calculate upon the support of France in the renewal of his proposition to purchase; at least, so we infer from an article entitled "Europe and the United States," published in the *Patrie*, of Paris, on the 9th of November last. Everybody knows the political significance of that journal, and the slight inspirations which it receives. Even the message of November III. cannot conveniently be omitted in the *Moniteur*, are made apparent in the columns of the *Patrie*; and this circumstance should be of some weight in considering an article which—after recognizing the principle that "The dominion of the world really belongs to no one either in America or Europe, and powerful nations have declined upon realizing such an ambition"—concludes with these words: "Neither on the ocean, nor in the Mediterranean, nor in the Black Sea, shall we ever abandon the cause of justice and civilization."

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bedroom may be obtained at No. 328 AUSTIN-PL., N. Y. Also, a single room.

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been thoroughly painted and papered throughout, is now ready for the reception of boarders. Rooms to let by the day or week.

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prefer private family, or private boarding-house, where there are no other boarders, can hear of a desirable location by addressing A. B., box No. 1,200, General Post-Office.

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The New-York Herald

Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1856.